

# THE ADVOCATE

January 2009

## Why I Come To Work

by Betty Henson, Registered Nurse

I'm **Betty Henson**. As a Registered Nurse (RN) at the Youth Services Center, I am charged with distributing medication, total treatment and care of patients, carrying out doctor's orders for patient treatment, and handling patient triage. I have been with the agency since September 2000 as a contract RN. I also worked at Forest Haven, formerly a receiving home for the disabled, before it closed in 1994, and then as a nurse coordinator at the Oak Hill Youth Center, serving on the girls unit. So I am proud to say that I have been a DC Government employee for 20 years. Why do I come to work? I come to work out of concern for young people and their health, and I like working with the youth every day.



## Renaissance Holiday Party and Gift Drive

by Nkenge Watkins, Volunteer Coordinator



This holiday season youth from the Renaissance House, a DYRS pre-independent living program, adopted a family of eight children from one of DC's most underserved communities. On December 18, 2008, they hosted a party and gift drive to provide Christmas gifts and dinner for the entire family. DYRS staff and family members brought toys, books, games, and clothing to the gift drive, and wrapped the gifts for the family. This is another example of our young people "giving back" and learning from the experience.

## Meet the Licensing Team

by Barry Holman, Director of Research

Three years ago there was not a shelter or group home doing business with DYRS that had a license to operate. Vendors complained that the process wasn't clear and that DYRS had poor customer service. Today, shelter homes, group homes, therapeutic family homes, and extended family homes have earned either an annual or provisional license. This rapid improvement in the licensing of facilities and improved programs for our young people is the result of the hard work by the DYRS Licensing staff and their engagement of vendors in a collaborative process to obtain a license. Each licensed home is visited on a monthly basis, and meetings are held with each vendor to review their licensing status. The open communication between the licensing unit and vendors has resulted in more licenses, and improved our vendor's view of our agency. We should all be proud of their great work and I am happy to say "Thanks!"



The Licensing Team (from left to right on photo): James Heath, Licensing Specialist; Eloise Gray, Licensing Specialist; Monita Laurent, Program Manager; and Larry Stewart, Program Monitor. They are located on the 8th floor of 450 H St., Washington, D.C. Stop by to learn more about the licensing process, and to see the wall of photos of happy vendors receiving their licenses.



## New Logo Design

by Reggie Sanders, Public Information Officer

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) is pleased to unveil a new logo to help promote a consistent image throughout the agency. Our own Deputy Director David Brown, provided the initial design concept which was then followed by review and input from staff around the agency. As you can see, the design depicts adults supporting youth as they reach for the stars, suggesting that all things are possible with the right kinds of services, supports, and opportunities. "Our goal as an agency was to develop a unique design that can best symbolize our mission and vision as well as celebrate our dedicated employees and

our Positive Youth Development approach. I believe this design does all of that," said Vincent N. Schiraldi, Director, DYRS. "It is a consistent and common identifier that will serve to enhance our work and our brand as we communicate who we are and what we do."



**Government of the District of Columbia**  
Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services